(b) if so, whether Government would introduce any measure to stop ice-cream producers from using synethetic vanilla, which is harmful to health; and

(c) whether Government has noticed the fact the price of natural vanilla is coming down these days?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Synethetic Vanilla (Ethyl vanillin) used as flavouring agent in foods has been evaluated by Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives which indicate no safety concern at current level of intake when used as a flavouring agent.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 requires the label of ice-cream containing synthetic vanilla shall mention "contains artificial flavouring substance" under the list 'of ingredients.

(c) The Directorate of Economic & Statistics (Price Divisions), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, do not collect information on the price of Vanilla.

Nodal agency to ensure the treatment to needy patients

1261. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIIMS and Safdarjung hospitals etc. have formed a nodal agency to ensure that needy patients are not denied treatment on the excuse of bed shortage;

(b) if so, details of nodal agency so formed, if any;

(c) whether a number of barracks have been vacated and if so, what is the proposal to utilize those barracks lying idle;

(d) whether patients are discharged a day or two after surgery and are called again to come for removal of stitches and checking; and

(e) if so, the reasons for giving discharge to them without removal of stitches?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The High Court of Delhi vide its order dated 31.10.2007 has directed the Director-General of Health Services to form a nodal agency of the AIIMS and Safdarjung hospital. The modalities are being finalized by the DGHS in consultation with the two hospitals.

(d) and (e) The practice of early mobilization and discharge of patients is followed and encourage according to the internationally accepted guidelines.

Implementation of Prof. Thorat Committee

1262. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures are being planned for implementation of the Prof. Thorat Committee recommendation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Governing Body of AIIMS in its meeting held on 5.9.2007 resolved that the Thorat Committee Report be accepted in principle and Health Secretary may examine and take necessary action for implementation of the same. The matter is accordingly under consideration.

Cancer deaths

1263. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that cancer kills 50 Indians every hour, around 5 million cancer cases occur at any given time and 8,00,000 new cancers every year, as per National Cancer Registry Programme data collected by the Indian Council of Medical Research, making it the fourth biggest killer disease in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the main causes of this affliction; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) As per data collected through National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an estimated 4.4 lakhs people die of cancer every year and about 7—9 lakh new cancer cases are detected every year. At any given point of time there are 2.5 million cancer patients in the country.

(c) Common cancers among men in India include that of mouth, lung, stomach, oesophagus and prostate. Common cancers among women in India include that of cervix, breast, ovary, oesophagus, mouth, stomach etc., Each site of cancer has a different aetiology, which often is multi-factorial in nature, Cancer of several sites like lung, oral cavity, oesophagus etc. is predominantly caused by tobacco use. Risk factors for cervical cancer include HPV infection, multiple sexual partners sexual hygiene, multiple pregnancies etc. Diet especially high-fat and devoid of fruits and vegetables is important in causation of cancer of breast, colon etc.

(d) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. Central Government under the schemes of National Cancer Control Programme lays special emphasis on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme. There are 25 Regional Cancer Centres in the country providing comprehensive cancer care treatment. Central Government under the schemes of National Cancer Control Programme lays special emphasis on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme. There are 25 Regional Cancer Centres in the country providing comprehensive cancer care treatment.